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Considered the pivotal figure in Urdu literature, Shibli Nomanı is a self-made personality who kept the flame of oriental art and sciences alive amidst Western influence. As a historian, poet, and architect of Urdu literary criticism, he ventured into uncharted territory under the guidance of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Shibli was the first to compile the history of Islam in Urdu, penning insightful books about pivotal personalities in Islam. His most notable work is the biography of Omar Farooq, titled "Al-Farooq". He also wrote historical and research articles that sparked interest in history and historiography. As a skilled poet and discerning critic, Shibli was considered one of the founders of Urdu criticism. During his stay in Aligarh, he became acquainted with Western civilization and its social etiquette under Professor Arnold's guidance. This convergence of Eastern and Western values led to him being ostracized by traditionalists, forcing him to leave Nadwa and align himself with Western-centric circles. Shibli composed poetry in both Urdu and Persian, showcasing distinct styles. His Persian verse often explored sensual love themes, while his Urdu poems focused on communal and political themes. Hali remarked that Shibli's Persian poetry was like "firewater infused with an arousing intoxication". Born in 1857 in Bandwal near Azamgarh to a Rajput lineage, Shibli's temperament was akin to Imam Abu Hanifa's, leading him to adopt the surname Nomanı and express his Hanafist chauvinism. His father, a famous lawyer, landlord, and merchant, decided to impart his business acumen to Shibli, who eventually became an expert in sugar and indigo trade. Shibli's educational journey led him to become an accomplished scholar of Persian, Arabic, Hadith, Fiqh, and other Islamic sciences under the guidance of prominent scholars. After completing his studies, he briefly worked as a Qari-Amin before appearing for and failing the law exam initially but succeeding in it the following year. His career took various turns, including an unsuccessful stint at advocacy, until he secured a position teaching Arabic and Persian at Sir Syed's College in Aligarh. It was during his tenure at Sir Syed's College that Shibli began to make a name for himself as a scholar of Arabic and Persian. His travels to Turkey, Syria, and Egypt greatly influenced his work, leading to the awarding of the prestigious 'Tamgha-e-Majidiyah' by Sultan Abdul Hamid on Atiya Faizi's recommendation. Upon his return from these journeys, Shibli wrote several notable works including Al-Mamoon and Sirat-e-Numan, followed by "Al-Farooq" after another visit to Turkey. Following the death of Sir Syed in 1898, Shibli left Aligarh for Azamgarh, dedicating himself to the development of his self-founded National School (now known as Shibli College). Later, he moved to Hyderabad where he spent four years writing several significant works. His contributions also included handling educational affairs at Nadwat Ulema in Lucknow and completing the celebrated "She'r-ul-Ajam" amidst a busy schedule. Maulana had two marriages, with his first wife passing away in 1895. He remarried in 1900 but lost his second wife in 1905. A tragic accident occurred in 1907 when Shibli suffered an accidental gunshot wound that resulted in the amputation of one leg. His dream to establish "Dar Al-Musnaffin" for scientific research and learning could only be fulfilled after his passing. Due to differences in opinion, Shibli eventually parted ways with Nadwa. He then settled in Azamgarh where he engaged in school administration and landlordship before seeing a decline in his health, ultimately leading to his death on November 18, 1914. Throughout his life, Shibli was known for his perfectionism, diligence, and care in every endeavor he undertook, earning him respect from both Muslim and non-Muslim rulers who supported his scholarly and research projects. He was a pioneer of Urdu criticism, having outlined his critical views in depth in his two notable works, "She'r-ul-Ajam" and "Muwazana-e-Anis-o-Dabir". In "Muwazana-e-Anis-o-Dabir", he outlined the fundamental principles of Marsiya, eloquence, and other linguistic devices. His book "She'r-ul-Ajam" delves into the essence of poetry, exploring its relationship with language and meaning across various genres of classical Urdu poetry. He distinguished between elements of poetry, history, and narration, asserting that poetry is a matter of personal taste and conscience with no single definition. Shibli emphasized passion and feeling as the core of poetry, highlighting the significance of emotions in creating an impact. He focused on the sensory and artistic aspects of poetry while emphasizing the importance of using words effectively. The British government recognized his contributions by awarding him the title of Shams-ul-Ulema.